General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 January 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 70 *(a)*

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.19 and Add.1)*]

64/74. Humanitarian assistance, emergency relief and rehabilitation effort for El Salvador in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Ida

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/1 B of 5 October 1998, 53/1 C of 2 November 1998, 54/96 E of 15 December 1999, 58/117 of 17 December 2003, 59/212 of 20 December 2004, 59/231 and 59/233 of 22 December 2004 and 60/220 of 22 December 2005,

Reiterating the need for the United Nations system to respond to requests for assistance by Member States and for humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence,

Deeply regretting the loss of human life and the scores of victims caused by Hurricane Ida in El Salvador on 7 and 8 November 2009,

Conscious of the huge material losses sustained to crops, homes, basic infrastructure and tourist and other areas,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Government of El Salvador to protect the lives of its nationals and rapidly to assist the affected population,

Conscious that the Central American countries are vulnerable to cyclical weather patterns and prone to natural hazards owing to their geographical location and features, which impose additional challenges on their ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting the enormous effort, as well as the fullest coordinated support and solidarity of the international community, that will be required to rebuild the affected areas and to alleviate the grave situation wreaked by these natural hazards,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Government and the people of El Salvador;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the international community that have offered their support to the rescue and emergency assistance effort for the affected population;

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3. *Appeals* to all Member States and all organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to provide speedy support to the relief, rehabilitation and assistance effort for El Salvador;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to provide assistance in response to the United Nations flash appeal for El Salvador;

5. *Acknowledges* the efforts and progress made by El Salvador in strengthening its disaster-preparedness capacity, emphasizes the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction, and encourages the international community to continue to cooperate with the Government of El Salvador towards this end;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to assist El Salvador, whenever possible, through continued effective humanitarian, technical and financial assistance that contributes to overcoming the emergency and achieving the rehabilitation and recovery of the economy and the affected population, in conformity with the priorities identified at the national level;

7. *Requests* the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to increase their support and assistance for strengthening the disaster-preparedness capacity of El Salvador;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction effort for El Salvador under the sub-item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations".

60th plenary meeting
7 December 2009

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 January 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 70 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.31 and Add.1)*]

64/75. Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/19 of 28 November 1995, 52/171 of 16 December 1997, 54/98 of 8 December 1999, 56/102 of 14 December 2001, 58/118 of 17 December 2003 and 61/220 of 20 December 2006,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 A and B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996,

Emphasizing the need for coordination between relief and development activities in the context of humanitarian emergencies, taking into account the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Recognizing the importance of mobilizing the scientific and technical know-how of the international community as a way of mitigating the effects of disasters, bearing in mind the positive impact of technology transfer to developing countries in this field,

Recognizing also the responsibility of the United Nations system in the promotion of international cooperation to prevent and mitigate disasters, to provide assistance and to coordinate relief and prevention measures, highlighting the leading role of the Secretary-General in this regard,

Recognizing further that the international community, in addressing the growing magnitude and complexity of man-made and natural disasters and chronic situations characterized by hunger, malnutrition and poverty, must rely not only on

[1] See resolution 55/2.

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the formulation of a well-coordinated global response within the framework of the United Nations but also on the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Recognizing the effort made by the White Helmets model in helping to involve stricken populations or those at risk in the tasks of planning, training, mobilizing and providing an immediate response in disaster situations,

Recognizing also the need to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, prepared pursuant to its resolution 46/182 and submitted in response to its its resolutions 61/220 of 20 December 2006 and 63/139 of 11 December;[2]

2. *Recognizes* the effort being made by the White Helmets initiative to strengthen national and regional agreements aimed at facilitating coordination between the United Nations system and trained standby national volunteer corps, in accordance with accepted United Nations procedures, through the United Nations Volunteers and other agencies of the system;

3. *Notes* the emphasis placed on the development of mechanisms to facilitate the local management of humanitarian emergencies, through the organization and participatory involvement and empowerment of affected communities and the training of the members of local volunteer corps;

4. *Also notes* the importance of the international efforts being made by the White Helmets initiative to strengthen the comprehensive regional mechanisms for managing prevention and response activities in emergency and disaster situations, in particular its model for setting up regional networks of focal points, with a view to linkage with other international structures;

5. *Recognizes* that the White Helmets initiative can play an important role in the promotion, diffusion and implementation of the decisions contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] and invites Member States in a position to do so to consider means to ensure the integration of the White Helmets initiative into their programme activities and to make financial resources available to the Special Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Volunteers;

6. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the World Food Programme and the White Helmets to coordinate integration mechanisms that allow for joint action within the framework of food security, on the basis of their general agreements of 1998;

7. *Encourages* operational partners of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Volunteers and the World Health Organization, in providing psychosocial support to the disaster-affected population in emergency and disaster situations, to draw, as appropriate, on the voluntary expertise of the White Helmets, which has been successfully tested;

8. *Encourages* the White Helmets to continue enhancing coordination with the international humanitarian system and to explore mechanisms for sharing best practices on disaster response and preparedness with other regional organizations in

[2] A/64/84-E/2009/87.

disaster-prone areas, in an effort to improve the coordination of humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations in emergency situations,

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the experience acquired, to continue considering the use of the White Helmets initiative as a resource suitable for preventing and mitigating the effects of humanitarian disaster situations;

10. *Also invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the extensive international work experience acquired by the White Helmets, as recognized by the General Assembly since the adoption of its resolution 49/139 B, the first resolution on the White Helmets initiative, and in view of the success of coordinated actions carried out with, inter alia, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Volunteers, to suggest measures to enhance the integration of the White Helmets initiative into the work of the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session in a separate section of the annual report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

60th plenary meeting
7 December 2009

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 February 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 70 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.32 and Add.1)]

64/76. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Noting the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations[1] and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,[2]

Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Deeply concerned about the humanitarian impact of such global challenges as the global financial and economic crisis and the ongoing food crisis, including their effect on the increasing vulnerability of populations and their negative impact on the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance based on and in proportion to assessed needs, with a view to ensuring fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors and across humanitarian emergencies, and recognizing, in this regard, the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response capacity as a result of the consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change, and

[1] A/64/84-E/2009/87.

[2] A/64/327.

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reaffirming the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] inter alia, by providing adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness,

Recognizing that building national and local preparedness and response capacity is critical to a more predictable and effective response,

Emphasizing that enhancing international cooperation on emergency humanitarian assistance is essential, and reaffirming its resolution 63/141 of 11 December 2008 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters,

Condemning the increasing number of deliberate violent attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities and the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need,

Recognizing the high numbers of persons affected by humanitarian emergencies, including internally displaced persons, and welcoming, in this regard, the adoption on 22 October 2009 of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,[4] which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa,

Recognizing also that 2009 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[5] which include a vital legal framework for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations to improve humanitarian response, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, enhancing predictable and adequate funding and strengthening the accountability of all stakeholders, and recognizing the importance of strengthening emergency administrative procedures and funding to allow for an effective response to emergencies,

Recognizing that in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations organizations should continue to work in close coordination with national Governments,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the twelfth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009;[6]

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

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[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

[4] Available from www.africa-union.org.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[6] See A/64/3, chap. VI. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

3. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance at the field level, including with national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing transparency, performance and accountability;

4. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the support provided to United Nations resident humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including by providing necessary training, identifying resources and improving the identification of and the selection process for United Nations resident humanitarian coordinators;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[1] takes note with appreciation of the "2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction" and the outcome of the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 16 to 19 June 2009, and looks forward to the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2010;

7. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to increase resources for disaster risk reduction measures, including in the areas of preparedness for effective response and contingency planning;

8. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security;

9. *Encourages* the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the work of international and, as appropriate, regional organizations in supporting State efforts to improve international cooperation in disaster response, and encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account, as appropriate, the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, adopted at the Thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November 2007;

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[1] Available from www.unisdr.org.

11. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and of national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing timely, effective and predictable humanitarian assistance, and encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and through support to programmes aimed at enhancing the coordination capacities of affected States;

12. *Encourages* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination between United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries and the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as of sustainable rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the affected countries and relevant humanitarian and development actors, to carry out an assessment of steps taken by the United Nations and relevant partners to support efforts to strengthen local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity and to include his findings as well as recommendations for enhancing United Nations support in this regard in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

14. *Encourages* efforts to provide education in emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

15. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the consolidated appeals process, inter alia by engaging in the preparation of needs analyses and common humanitarian action plans, including through a better analysis of gender-related allocations, in order to further the development of the process as an instrument for United Nations strategic planning and prioritization, and by involving other relevant humanitarian organizations in the process, while reiterating that consolidated appeals are prepared in consultation with affected States;

16. *Requests* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including disaster preparedness and needs assessment, take into account the specific needs of the affected population, recognizing that giving appropriate consideration to, inter alia, gender, age and disability is part of a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response;

17. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

18. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs, including for underfunded emergencies, and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, and encourages efforts to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship;[8]

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[8] A/58/99-E/2003/94, annex II.

19. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, and stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective and transparent manner possible;

20. *Calls upon* all Member States and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

21. *Reiterates* that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding;

22. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

23. *Calls upon* States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, in accordance with national law and their obligations under international law;

24. *Urges* all Member States to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence, and calls upon States, the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, harmonize response and strengthen capacity, with a view to reducing such violence, and in support services to victims of such violence;

25. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[9] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for capacity-building efforts of States;

26. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

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[9] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on action taken by the Secretariat to develop and apply special emergency rules and procedures to ensure the quick disbursement of emergency funds, the expeditious procurement of emergency supplies and equipment and the rapid recruitment of staff in order to improve the overall response to humanitarian emergencies;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

60th plenary meeting
7 December 2009